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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/668,747      | 09/23/2003  | Jin Shenghao         | 15865.6a.1          | 1791             |

7590 09/16/2005

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EXAMINER

WILKENS, JANET MARIE

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

3637

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                      |                                        |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/668,747 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>SHENGHAO ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Janet M. Wilkens  | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3637                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                    | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                           | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/14/2005</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Attachment A &amp; B</u>              |

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement filed April 14, 2005 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because: Foreign patent 223,700 is missing Fig. 1 and therefore has not been considered. The other Foreign patents crossed out were not considered because they fail to include an English abstract, a translation or a statement of relevance. As for the court documents/proceedings, there has not been provided an explanation of relevance/ an explanation as to why these papers are pertinent (so as to merit inclusion as prior art for this application). Furthermore, if portions of these documents are pertinent, these portions need to be specifically directed to and identified. These references have been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609.05(a).

### ***Drawings***

Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to

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avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 22.

The drawings are also objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: B-3, B-4, and 2'.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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### ***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 12, paragraph 58, the second connecting aperture should be designated 12'. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. For claim 17, "the at least one groove" lacks antecedent basis.

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

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Claims 1-23 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of copending Application No. 10/668,746. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the instant and copending applications include a table comprising: a plastic blow molded table top having a lip with interior, outer and bottom surfaces, a groove, a recess, a first connecting aperture located in the interior surface and a second connecting aperture located in the exterior surface; first and second sleeves with fixing plates; a first table leg; and a first cross pole attached to a first end of the table leg and disposed in the first and second connecting apertures and sleeves.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 14, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nye et al (5,921,623). Nye teaches a table (Fig. 2A) comprising: a plastic blow molded table top (12) having a lip (see depending portion of 12 in Fig. 2A and Attachment A) with interior, outer and bottom

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surfaces and a first connecting aperture (82) located in the interior surface; a first table leg (30); and a first cross pole (62) attached to a first end of the table leg and disposed in the first connecting aperture. The lip also includes a groove/recess (64). Since Nye teaches all of the structural limitations found in the method claims; the method steps would inherently be provided for.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 14, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dutro et al (5,394,808). Dutro et al teaches a table (Fig. 1; see Attachment B) comprising: a plastic molded table top (12) having a lip (14) with interior, outer and bottom surfaces, a first connecting aperture (inner opening) located in the interior surface and a second connecting aperture (outer opening) located in the exterior surface; a sleeve (38); a first table leg (24); and a first cross pole (23) attached to a first end of the table leg and disposed in the first and second connecting apertures. Since Dutro teaches all of the structural limitations found in the method claims; the method steps would inherently be provided for.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dutro et al (5,394,808). As stated above, Dutro teaches the limitations of claims 1 and 2, including a sleeve. First, for claim 6, Dutro fails to teach that the sleeve has a square cross section. The examiner takes Official notice that sleeves with square cross sections are well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the sleeve of Dutro by making it square in cross section, depending on the desired need of the person constructing the table, e.g. depending on the sleeves readily available, to help slow/control motion of the cross pole within the sleeve, etc. Note: there is no reason given in the disclosed specification as to why a square sleeve would be beneficial in the table.

Second, for claim 7, Dutro fails to teach that the sleeve has a fixing plate. The examiner takes Official notice that sleeves with fixing plates (having fastener openings therein) are well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the sleeve of Dutro by adding a fixing plate (having fastener openings therein) to the inner end portion thereof, depending on the desired need of the person constructing the table, e.g. to provide a means on the end of the sleeve to help keep it in position on the lip.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet M. Wilkens whose telephone number is (571) 272-6869. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

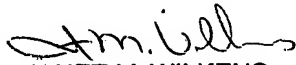


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wilkins  
September 14, 2005

  
JANET M. WILKENS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
Art Unit 3637

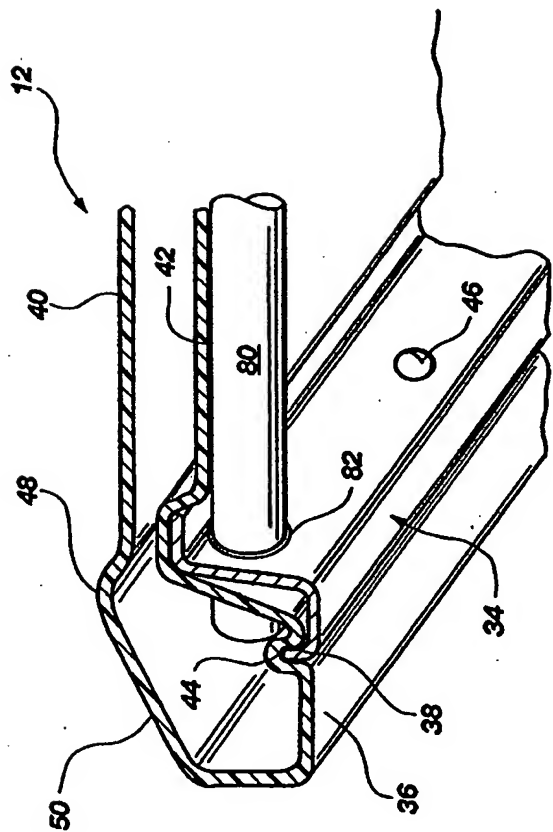


Fig. 2

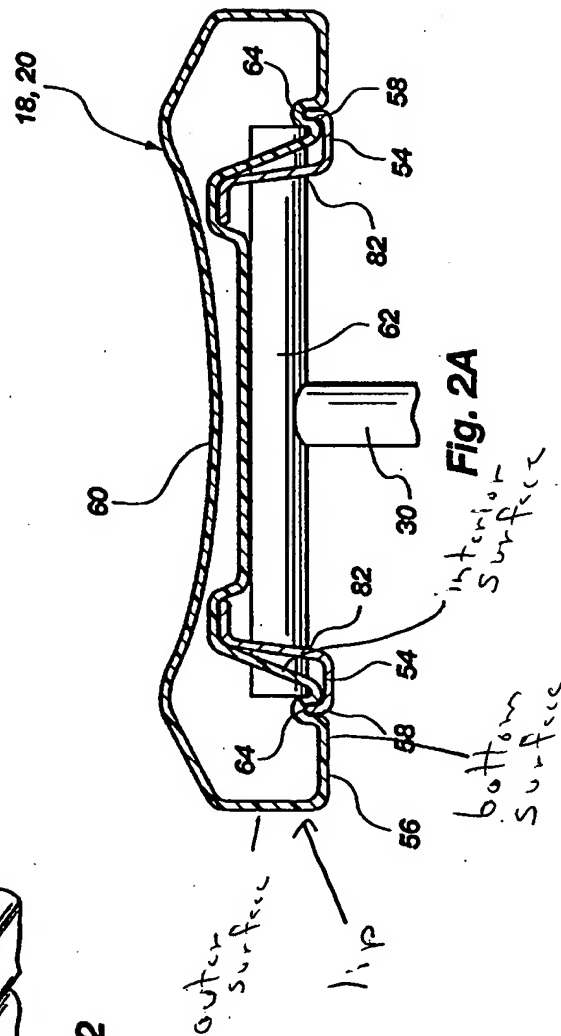


Fig. 2A

A Hecht mit B

